



## AS LÓGICAS DE ACTUAÇÃO EXTERNA EM ANGOLA E MOÇAMBIQUE

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What I propose is to start with Mozambique for a change and then finish with Angola. I will express the perception that France has of these two countries and then I will see which is at stake in these countries for France and I will finish with the action of France in both of these countries.

First of all, I would like to mention France is not a key-player in Mozambique or Angola like Portugal, so we cannot be compared with Portugal and we are obviously not competing. About Mozambique, the perception that we have, which has been expressed many times already during this conference, is that it's a pilot country, pioneering country in many aspects. I will just quote some of them. It has beautifully succeeded the transition to peace; there is a very good mechanism of help coordination with international community, the G8, beyond this point, a very important country for the sub region that means that with the national corridors of Maputo, Beira and Nacala it may allow the countries around to open their borders. So, for us it's a quite strategic country.

I would like to mention though it is not a key-player, in both of these countries, Mozambique and Angola, we're in the first circle of our cooperation, they were included in what we call the «champ», the priority field of cooperation after the independence of these countries and they are now in the «zone de solidarité prioritaire» which is a priority zone of solidarity for France and that means that we pay special interest to these countries. Which is at stake in Mozambique for France? I mentioned that we always had a very good relation with Mozambique which is not the new, which is even quite old because President Joaquim Chissano started studying medicine in France in 1961 – just briefly for few months, he was coming then for Portugal. And I would say that we've got a very good political relation. So we have the same relation of confidence with his successor President Armando Guebuza and I'm sure, accordingly with the firsts contacts President Chirac and President Guebuza had few months ago during the summit Africa-France in December, I'm sure it will work beautifully.

As I said, which is at stake as well, is to encourage the new partnership for Africa development, NEPAD. So, it is a diplomatic part of cooperation. We have limits obviously, we don't pretend to do all of it alone, so we will work closely with G18, the group of donors, to

realise the strategic plan to reduce poverty, and we try to promote the integration of Mozambique. That means not only within the SADC but as well in regional environment, I mean Indian Ocean where we have some overseas territories.

As far as economies concern this is quite limited, I will just say that in 2005 there was 52 million of euros of trade exchanges. What about the action of France in Mozambique? Let's start with diplomatic way. There will be a meeting soon with President Guebuza, who plans to make an official visit to France and meet President Chirac. Also, the Minister of Foreign Affairs will come in June, which is quite important because we have a new document for our cooperation which is a consequence of a big reform that we are currently experiencing and we have some consultation of development. My colleague Alex was mentioning the international financing facility for the British which was supported by Mozambique. I will just mention that as well Mozambique supports the initiative of taxes which will be applied in the air flight tickets which are a French initiative. We have a major player in Mozambique, which is called the French Agency for Development, and just to give a global idea of what they do there, between 2000 and 2005 there was 169 million of euros engaged in various projects. The FAD has two main sectors, which are health and fight against AIDS, especially in the frame work of the initiative for heavily indebt countries which comes from IMF and there will be about 22 millions of euros which will be dedicated to this action and we targeted since quite a few years a province, Cabo Delgado.

The other main sector is the environment and biodiversity. The FAD is financing the improvement of natural parks which is quite important, since 4.2 millions of euros were already spent in this project and a new project, the Limpopo Natural Park.

A few words about a very important cultural institution that we have in Maputo. And that's why I was a little bit disappointed by the perception the Mozambicans have about the South, expressed in the study conducted by the institute: they don't see France as a major player, and they don't see France in the future of Mozambique. We have what they call Franco, which is the Franco-Mozambican Cultural Institute, which plays a very important part in terms of spreading cultural and French teaching obviously, and we have a few projects as well in terms of governance research.

Just about the French action and initiative, I would like to emphasize the regional cooperation. As I mentioned before, it is very important and it has concrete outcomes. On a political level there is the agreement in October 2003 with the Reunion Island and José Pacheco, the governor of province of Cabo Delgado and the chairman of the regional Council of Reunion Island which plan to develop the political contacts between the two territories and Mozambique. Culturally as well is quite active. There is an agreement and some groups of the Reunion Island and Mayot participate regularly to the *Festival Baluarte Ilha de Moçambique*.

Could I mention briefly the assistance in the military field, which is not only an attempt to train the Mozambican troops in terms of preventing conflict and peace, but as well to help the Mozambicans to deal with their natural catastrophes such as the floods in February 2000, where troops sent some helicopters to help the population.

On an economic point of view, we have a regional cooperation, which is quite exemplary – we have a company, which is specialised in shrimp farming – this is a project in Quelimane which will be inaugurated next April by resident Guebuza. We have new projects to follow as well, like the appropriation by Total of Exxon Mobil's gas distributing net. In the energy

field apparently we have a big French company who is interested in working with Exxon from South Africa to set up a refinery plant with the natural gas of Timane.

To conclude, we don't picture Angola on one side where all is bad and Mozambique on the other side where all is good. We are perfectly aware of the various challenges that Mozambique has still to address, to reinforce the rule of law and governance. But there are some encouraging results and this is very positive. We realise as well that France cannot address alone all the challenges, so we try to work with our partners South Africa, NEPAD.

About Angola, we have the same perceptions as Alex and Jennifer. This is a potential regional power, but still a fragile country which has been obviously very damaged by 40 years of conflict, with huge assets in diamonds, oil, agricultural industry, fishing potential, military potential and so on. Again, as it was underlined, most population lives in poverty. And what's at stake for France is restoring the political dialogue. As you may know, we have had some difficulties in the past with the Falcon Gate, not to confuse with the Angola Gate, which is a confusion, which doesn't correspond to the reality. With Angola what we are trying to do is to help set the partnership in terms of peace and prevention of conflict, in terms of cooperation we have to act again to insert our action into the international effort and so we try to be more present through the European Union.

In terms of economy we have to improve the environment of business, diversify our work (our presence is mostly illustrated by Total), and help Angola to deal with the IMF and to find an agreement.

Third point, the action in terms of diplomacy. We have to put aside or behind us the problem with Falcon or the misunderstanding. In terms of the Peace process we have many initiatives, I cannot explain them.

In terms of cooperation I would like just to underline that we have a major lack because the France Agency for Development is not anymore present in Angola. Knowing that the Agency is our major tool for development, this is a big handicap, knowing that the Angolan state owes about 155 million euros to the France Agency. That's why I talked about reinforcing cooperation with the EU, namely we just put in place technical assistance to manage and run projects in education (there's a very important project, 22 million euros involved). Our technical assistance should play a very vital role, also in the World Bank in the next few months.

Regarding the action of our embassy, what we call cooperation services and cultural action, to give a global idea, in 2005, 5 million euros were spent, in 2006 only 4 million. We have priority sectors such as humanitarian social help and a big project of 3 million euros which started last year, where we dispend 1.8 million in de-mining, promoting micro agricultural, education and health. We have a very important university, a partnership as well with public University Agostinho Neto, we have a technical assistance who tries to put in place new ways of training in short courses and we have the cultural diversity and the French speaking promotion with our cultural and language institutes, Alliance Française, in Angola.

Fourth point, economy and finance, last year it there were 1 billion euros of trade exchanges which represents mostly the import of oil (7 billion euros) and only 273 billion of exports. We try on the financial side to clinch with IMF. France is running the Paris Club which takes care of that. I'm glad to see that the Minister of finance is going to resume talks in Paris with the Paris Club in April.

About Total, obviously our main interest is represented by Total in Angola – it's the second oil company behind Texaco, it employs 558 employees including 305 experts- just to mention there is a special accent on the local training and they try the best they can to train local employees. There is a significant increase expected with Total and the production of the block 17, which will produce by 2008 about 5000 barrels a day.

To conclude we have obviously many questions about Angola, but I will only emphasize the cruelty on human rights and the situation in Cabinda which is still a subject of worrying for us. But we are also certain that Angola needs the assistance of international community in a coordinated and humanised manner. Fifth point, and quite positive, there is more involvement of Angola in the international community, the involvement in ICCAS as well in the World Health Organisation since the department of Africa is run by Ruiz Gomes, he's Angolan, Angola is as well a member of Economic and Social Council at the UN. And recently, in February, they signed a convention for both UN and African Union against corruption, so this is a very good point.

Last point is the resumption of dialogue with the international military institutions.